

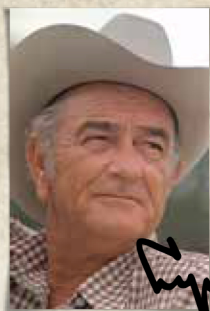
Click It OR Ticket

MAY 20-JUNE 2, 2013

TxDOT

FACT SHEET

For the 12th consecutive year, the Texas Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and law enforcement agencies statewide are joining forces for the annual *Click It or Ticket* public awareness campaign. It reminds drivers and passengers of the life-saving benefits of seat belts and warns motorists that law enforcement officers across the state will be ticketing those who are not buckled up. Since the campaign first began in 2002, the state's seat belt use rate has steadily climbed from 76 percent to 94 percent today.



LBJ AND THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT OF 1968

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, landmark legislation signed into law by Texas native son Lyndon B. Johnson requiring manufacturers to put seat belts in all vehicles. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that prior to the Johnson era laws requiring seat belts and highway safety improvements, more than 50,000 people routinely died on the nation's roadways annually. By 2011 the number dropped to just over 32,000.

SEAT BELT FACTS

- In 2012, there were 5,062 motor vehicle traffic crashes in Texas in which unrestrained occupants sustained fatal or serious injuries.
- According to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute's 2012 survey, those least likely to buckle up include teens, passengers in general, pickup occupants, and motorists in medium-sized cities and rural areas.
- Vehicle passengers do not buckle up as much as vehicle drivers. This is especially true for pickup trucks. Only 82 percent of passengers in pickups use seat belts.
- Wearing a seat belt reduces risk of being injured in a serious crash by 45%. For those in pickups, seat belts reduce the risk of injury by 60% since pickups are twice as likely to roll over as passenger vehicles.



IT'S THE LAW: BUCKLE UP IN THE FRONT AND BACK SEAT

Texas law requires drivers and all passengers in a vehicle to be secured by a safety belt. Yes, that means unbuckled adult passengers in the back seat also face fines and court costs of up to \$200.